

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

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Figures 1 and 2 have been amended as reflected in the attached substitute sheets, and as explained below.

In Fig. 1, the lead lines for reference numerals 54 (melt channel) and 28 (nozzle end) have been modified so that they now lead to the proper elements.

In Fig. 2, the lead lines for reference numerals 34 (seat), 82 (mounting means) and 32 (nozzle body) have been modified so that they now lead to the proper elements. An extraneous numeral 58 has been deleted from the center of the figure. And the upper reference numeral 56, which is incorrect, has been changed to 54 (melt channel).

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REMARKS

Original claims 1-17 were examined. Claims 6, 7, and 14-17 have been canceled; claims 1, 2, 9 and 10 have been amended; and new claims 18-21 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 8-13, and 18-21 are presented for reconsideration. Only claims 1, 9 and 18 are independent.

OBJECTION TO THE DISCLOSURE; DRAWING CORRECTIONS

Paragraphs 16 and 18 of the disclosure are objected to because each of two reference numerals (28, 34) was used to designate two different elements. This has been corrected by the above amendments to ¶¶16 and 18. Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawing have also been corrected in the same vein; and to correct other defects that were noted. In light of these amendments, the objection is now moot.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 2, 10 and 16 are objected to for "failing to limit the subject matter of a previous claim." Claims 2 and 10 have been amended by adding subject matter that has been deleted from parent claims 1 and 9, respectively. Claim 16 has been canceled. In light of these amendments, the objection is now moot.

PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Gellert (US 6,009,616) in view of Gellert et al (US 5,820,899). This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the foregoing claim amendments and cancellations, and for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a threaded connection between the rear portion of the nozzle end and the nozzle body. In addition, the claim now recites a threaded connection between the tips and such a nozzle end. These features are not shown in the prior art cited by the Examiner.

Independent claim 9 has been amended to recite a threaded connection between the rear portion of the nozzle end and the nozzle body. The nozzle end of claim 9 also includes tips that are removably coupled to such a nozzle body via the threaded connection between the rear portion of the nozzle end and the nozzle body. These features are also recited in new independent claim 18. They are not shown in the prior art cited by the Examiner.

CONCLUSION

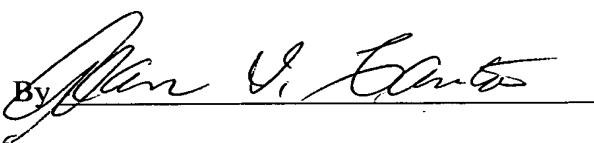
Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date July 14, 2003

By 

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